

cult for me to account for this difference in our observations, infinitely the more so when the statement comes from the pen of such an accurate describer as is Dr. Merrill.

This extraordinary flight of these Grosbeaks here, convinces me that either the bird is inclined to be at times very erratic in its migrations, or else it may have to do with the approaching season, perhaps indicating a coming winter of unusual severity.

An excellent series of skeletons rewarded my collecting, and as I predicted in my letter in the October 'Auk', the *secondary palatine processes* are absent, the entire skull much resembling that part of the skeleton in *Coccothraustes vulgaris*, as figured for us by Huxley.—R. W. SHUFELDT, *Fort Wingate, New Mexico*.

Loggerhead Shrike at Bridgeport, Connecticut. — The following are the records of the Loggerhead Shrike at Bridgeport, Conn.: late in August, 1880, one seen; late in August, 1885, two seen together; August 29, 1888, two seen together, one of which I shot. Mr. J. A. Allen pronounced this a *Lanius ludovicianus excubitorides* and a bird of the year. All these birds were seen at the sea beach. The gizzard of the one killed was filled with grasshoppers.—C. K. AVERILL, JR., *Bridgeport, Conn.*

First Occurrence of the Philadelphia Vireo near Washington, D. C.—This bird is certainly rare with us, having until this spring escaped notice though expected and looked for. While collecting on the evening of May 17, 1888, on the Virginia side of the Potomac near the new bridge, I took a specimen which was industriously feeding with Red-eyed Vireos in the willows on the marshy bottom lands.—WILLIAM PALMER, *Washington, D. C.*

Unusual Nesting Site of *Dendroica virens*.—There stands, a little aside from a public road on Cape Elizabeth, Maine, on the top of a small hill, some distance from any woods, a small pagoda of two stories, which is almost nightly filled by noisy pleasure-seekers. About it a grape-vine grows luxuriantly, and here, scarcely ten feet from the ground and only six from the floor of the piazza, a pair of Black-throated Green Warblers built their nest in the spring of 1888. Placed on the main stem of the vine, and so surrounded by leaves and twigs as to be absolutely invisible from the outside, it was nevertheless in plain sight the moment one stepped inside the sheltering vine upon the piazza. When I found the nest on June 29 it contained two eggs and one young bird, and on July 1 the eggs had hatched.—JOHN C. BROWN, *Portland, Maine*.

A Rare Bird in Chester Co., South Carolina. — I had been waiting all the morning of Oct. 11, 1888, for the cessation of the heavy gale and driving rain that had begun during the previous night, for I was anxious to get out into the woods and see what effect the storm was having on the

returning migrants. By midday the wind had subsided and the rain had become a mere drizzle. Shortly after 1 P. M. I ventured out, directing my steps to the nearest woods. But few birds were found, and I continued my search until I came to an extended body of scrubby black-jacks, pines, and red cedars about a mile and a half from home. Here I discovered a small gathering of Tufted Titmice, Carolina Chickadees, Ruby-crowned Kinglets, and several species of Warblers. I drove the gathering about through the low growth, shooting the birds that were not instantly recognized, until I reached an edge bordering on an old-field where I noticed a small bird fly into a low cedar. It was promptly shot. A glance was sufficient to reveal the fact that it was wholly new to me. I saw that it was a Warbler and a *Dendroica*. I began to revolve in mind the distinctive characters of each member of the genus until I had eliminated all save one—the one I had suspected it to be, for I had in memory Mr. Maynard's illustration of the female Kirtland's Warbler ('The Birds of Eastern North America,' pl. xvii). I hastened home to my library, and found that I had worked it out truly and that I had indeed "the rarest of all the Warblers" inhabiting the United States.

This, if I have read the records aright, is the third instance of *Dendroica kirtlandi* having been taken in the Atlantic States, and the second of its capture in South Carolina.—LEVERETT M. LOOMIS, *Chester, S. C.*

A Peculiar Nest of *Cinclus mexicanus*.—In an exceedingly interesting collection of nests and eggs recently received from Mr. Denis Gale, of Gold Hill, Colorado, a gift to the National Museum at Washington, D. C., an interesting Water Ouzel's nest, deserves mention.

Usually the Ouzel's nest is a domed, oven-shaped structure, ten to twelve inches through at its base, and from seven to eight inches high.

The nest now before me, No. 23,685, Nat. Mus. Collection, taken in Boulder Co., Colorado, May 31, 1888, and containing three fresh eggs at the time, was placed against one of the stringers, and close up to, and under the plank platform of a bridge, which saved the birds the trouble of doming it, in fact there was no room to do so. A full view of the interior can be had. The front face of this nest is five and a half inches high, by eight and a half inches wide. The depth of the nest gradually diminishes so that the rear of it is barely two inches high by eight inches wide. A side view of the structure gives it almost a triangular appearance. Outwardly the nest is principally composed of decayed plant fibres and lichens (*Hypnum* sp.?) used in a wet condition, and considerable sandy clay is mixed in amongst the outer portions of the structure which is covered all around with this material excepting at the entrance. This is near the top of the nest, four inches from the base, in the centre of the structure, and is two and one-half inches wide and one and a half inches high. The inner lining of the nest is composed of pine needles and stalks of grasses, amongst which that of the timothy grass (*Phleum pratense*) is plainly distinguishable. The inner cavity of the nest is three and a quarter inches wide by two and one-half inches deep, circular, and compactly built.—CHAS. E. BENDIRE, *Washington, D. C.*